Sterile Syringes and Pharmacies

California law allows pharmacies to sell needles and syringes to adults age 18 and older without a prescription. There is no limit on the number of syringes an adult can buy.

People may lawfully possess syringes for personal use in California. There is **no age restriction** for personal possession. Also, there are **no limits** on the number of syringes a person can have.

Pharmacies are not required to sell syringes without a prescription and pharmacists can choose how many syringes to sell to a customer.

Needles and syringes need to be disposed of safely after use – they can't legally be thrown in the garbage. Ask your pharmacist whether they sell "sharps containers." Sharps containers are made of strong, puncture-proof plastic.

You can't put a sharps container in the garbage or recycling. Sharps containers must be taken to a location that knows how to handle them safely. To find a location near you, call 800-643-1643 or go to https://safeneedledisposal.org.

What to "Do" for Disposal:

- Use a sharps container that is made for disposing of needles.
- Immediately put used needles and syringes into your container with the point first.
- Keep the container closed between uses.
- Keep containers away from children and pets.
- Find out <u>where to dispose of your full</u> <u>containers</u> at 1-800-643-1643 or online at https://safeneedledisposal.org.

The "Don'ts" of Disposal:

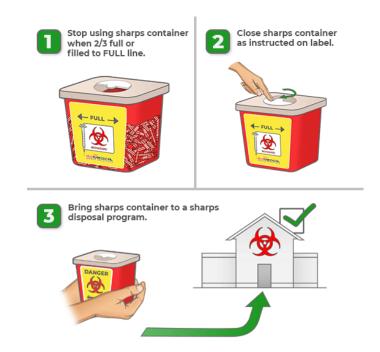
- Don't throw needles in the garbage, even if they are in a container. Containers can break in the garbage and needles can hurt sanitation workers.
- Don't flush needles down the toilet.
- Don't put sharps in aluminum cans, milk cartons, or any other containers that are not puncture-proof.

How do I find...?

For drug and alcohol treatment information call 1-800-662-4357.

For HIV and hepatitis testing and treatment call 1-800-232-4636 or go to https://gettested.cdc.gov/.

For more information about access to sterile syringes go to the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS website at http://b.link/sharps-fyi.



■ California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS ■ March, 2021 ■ Download at the Board of Pharmacy webpage for <u>consumer publications</u> at https://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/publications/pubs_for_consumers.shtml